

STOKE ASH & THWAITE

August & September
Newsletter
2022



GOOD MORNING!

Breakfast served until 11am every day

Full English Breakfast

Fried egg, rasher of butcher's bacon, sausage, mushroom,
tomato, baked beans, hash brown, fried bread

Includes all items from the buffet

£11.95

Vegetarian Breakfast

Two fried eggs, baked beans, two hash browns, mushroom,
tomato, fried bread

Includes all items from the buffet

£11.95

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With Scrambled Eggs

Includes all items from the buffet

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Plain or with cheese, bacon or mushrooms

Includes all items from the buffet

£9.95

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Includes all items from the buffet

From
£9.95

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£3.20

Specialty Coffees

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Toast and Preserves

Thick sliced bread with Tiptree Marmalade & Jam

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Contact List of Organizations for Stoke Ash & Thwaite

Editor	Ken Smith	stokeash@supanet.com
Advertising	Ken Smith	01379 678197
Garden Club Thwaite	George Parnell	01449 768686
Veggie Plotters	George Parnell	01449 768686
Garden Club Stoke Ash	Lionel Coe	01379 678463
Knit, Craft & Natter	Jacqui Lawrence	01449 768116
Revd Julia Lall	Email:	rev.julialall@gmail.com
S/Ash Social Club	Ellen Stannard	01379 678646
	& Lionel Coe	01379 678463
Women's Institute (Secretary)	Pam Cooke	01379 678100
S/Ash Village Hall (bookings)	Sheila Coe	01379 678463
Management Committee	Geoff Tancred	01379 678568
Thwaite 50 Lottery Club	Christine Maisey	01449 766286
	Email:	maisey686@gmail.com

Stoke Ash & Thwaite has 8 Parish Councillors.

If you wish to raise any matters concerning the village you can do so by attending Parish Council meetings posted on the Parish Council notice board and website or by directly contacting one of the councillors or the Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish clerk Lynne Cockerton on 01728 862001 lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com

Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Councillors

Cllr Paul Morris (chair)	01379 678454	j.morris792@btinternet.com
Cllr Val Lane	01379 678568	vallane2002@yahoo.com
Cllr Gordon Leggett	01379 678450	gel-print@outlook.com
Cllr Geoff Tancred	01379 678568	geoffreytancred@gmail.com
Cllr Tony Pulham (vice chair)	07850 385914	tony@hpfltd.co.uk
Cllr Roger Kember	01449 768142	rogerkember@gmail.com
Cllr Dick Maisey	01449 766286	maisey686@gmail.com
Cllr Christine Maisey	01449 766286	maisey686@gmail.com

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The front cover picture was taken at the celebration at Stoke Ash White Horse of some of the people in the village enjoying the day at the White Horse!

The copy deadline for ALL issues this year will be the 10th of alternative months and for advertisers the 12th

This edition of the newsletter has been produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that they may be corrected.

Please note that the views expressed in readers letters are not necessarily those of the editors. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however we reserve the right to include, edit or omit letters as we think appropriate.

STOKE ASH VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

Winners since last published were:

Date	Winner	Prize	Date	Winner	Prize
May 14th	S. Coe	£50.00	June 11th	A. Warwood	£25.00
May 21st	Mrs Roth	£25.00	June 18th	B. Lock	£25.00
May 28th	Mark woodhouse	£25.00	June 25th	c. Damant	£25.00
June 4th	M. Humphries	£25.00	July 2nd	A. Warwood	£25.00

Stoke Ash Village Hall Lottery

£1 per week with weekly prize money of £25 based on the correct Saturday Bonus Ball.

For more details: Sheila Coe 01379 678463

Thwaite 50 Lottery

Thwaite 50 Lottery entry, to :- Please become a member at £5.00 per month or £60 per year, join at any time. (we now have 31 members). Prizes every month of £25, £20, & £15. We end the year with a Grand Christmas Draw in November.

For more details: Christine Maisey 01449766286.

Annual Parish Meeting 2022, Stoke Ash and Thwaite Parish Council Report

I would like to start this years report not with a list of Parish Council activities throughout the year, but with recognition and thanks to all Parish Councillors for their enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work on behalf of all the residents of Stoke Ash and Thwaite. Despite the workload involved in just the day to day and legal obligations fulfilled by the Council, each and every Councillor has found time to be involved in what could be termed “extra” activities on behalf of the villages. In fact most activities in the villages will now find a Councillor involved in some capacity, ranging from organising, contributing, and taking part in Christmas celebrations, to running Thwaite Projects Group, Stoke Ash Village Hall committee, organising and updating the Allotments, and much else.

All of this is in addition to more normal Council work, such as monitoring grit bins etc. Also this year some considerable time has been spent on unwelcome commercial developments as we seek to protect and enhance our villages as being pleasant and peaceful places to enjoy our homes. 2022 is Jubilee year, and Councillors are currently spending many hours in order to make this an event to remember. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and community-minded people in our villages.

Parish Council meetings have now reverted to being held once every two months, as the hoped for benefits of the change to monthly have not been apparent, with the monthly meetings becoming hardly any shorter. However there is always the possibility of extra meetings if need be.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of every second month, and are always advertised on the village notice board(s), and usually on Stoke Ash and Thwaite Villages website.

All are welcome to the meetings, and there is time set aside specifically for members of the public wishing to speak. We are always keen to hear from residents with any questions or matters of concern as well as any suggestions, and hope that Parish Council will be your first port of call, either via a Councillor or our very efficient Clerk.

Minutes of meetings and agendas are available on the website, along with lots of other interesting things about the villages.

As always I would encourage readers to refer to previous years annual reports, which can also be found on the website.

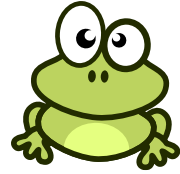
Having earlier congratulated and thanked Councillors for all that they do, I must also mention that there are currently two vacancies in Stoke Ash, which if filled would spread the work a little!

Finally I would just like to thank everyone in the villages for being such good neighbours and caring about our community, which makes it easier for enthusiasm to be maintained and the Councillors job so much more rewarding.

Paul Morris (chair)

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Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council – report on the Annual Parish Council meeting held 19 May 2022

Cllr Paul Morris was re-elected Chairman and Cllr Tony Pulham was re-elected Vice Chairman.

Parish Councillor representative and working groups were elected as follows:

Planning – all councillors

Finance Working Group – Cllrs G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey and T Pulham

Thwaite Community Projects Group – Cllrs G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey, D Maisey and T Pulham

Footpaths – Cllr T Pulham

Trees – Cllr P Morris

Website – Cllr G Tancred

Play Area, Stoke Ash – Cllr G Tancred

Emergency Planning – Cllrs G Leggett, T Pulham and Cllr R Kember

Parish Plan – Cllr G Leggett

Lunch Club – Cllrs G Leggett and Mrs C Maisey

PIIP's – Cllrs T Pulham, G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey, D Maisey, Mrs V Lane and G Tancred

Wash Lane – Cllr P Morris

Parish Council Vacancies – two vacancies remain in Stoke Ash, any parishioner aged 18 years and over is eligible to become a councillor. It is really important that the vacancies are filled to ensure the village is properly represented. Please do speak to a Councillor or the Clerk if you think you may be interested. Meetings are now held bi-monthly, July, September, November etc on the third Thursday evening of the month, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Holiday Lets, The Street, Stoke Ash – noise disturbance – a letter was sent to the owner of the properties raising parishioners concerns over the frequent disturbances, particularly late at night when the hot tubs are in use. The owner stated he was surprised to hear of the rowdy behaviour. These were award winning luxury holiday lets and guest requests were checked for their previous reviews. Guests with unsatisfactory reviews from other hosts would be declined. The agent managing the properties had not received complaints of antisocial behaviour. The agent, Abode East Anglia was available at any time on 07799 902663 to take calls and parishioners were urged to contact the agent should there be any further disturbances and importantly to keep a record of the date, time and nature of the disturbance as they occur.

Dates of meetings for reminder of 2022: 21 July, 15 September, 17 November.
Meetings are open to the public and start at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash.

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ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Thwaite Fund Raiser

Saturday 10th September 2022

Please come and join us at 12 noon on Saturday 10th September at St. George's Hall, Thwaite to have fun, buy some goodies and help raise funds for St. George's Hall.

St. George's is at the heart of Thwaite but needs funds to maintain it. If we want to keep it, we must look after it.

All contributions to the goodies stall are welcome.
Please look for anything that others might like but you no longer want.
Just call Roger or Gerda and we will collect.

Roger & Gerda Kember, 'Summer Place', Wickham Road
Time for all you cake bakers to show us your skills. Please tell us what cake(s) you would like to donate.

Volunteers are very welcome.

With **your** help we will be working on more for the day but please put this date in your diary and call Roger and Gerda with your ideas

**Please contact Roger & Gerda on 01449 768142
or rogerkember@gmail.com**



Thank you in advance for your help and generosity.



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WORSHIP

Please refer to leaflets in the village and on the church notice board for details of all the services around the benefice and online.

If anyone wishes to take part in an online church service you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southhartismerechurch> or at rev.julialall@gmail.com Phone: 01379 678064.

VILLAGE GARAGE SALES

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to, or helped at, the village garage sales held on 2nd July. We raised £234.00 for church funds – thanks again!

SUFFOLK CHURCHES “RIDE AND STRIDE”

This annual event will take place on Saturday 10 September from 9am to 5pm. If anyone would be so kind as to ride or walk for our church, forms will be in the Church Porch, on the window sill, or phone June (01379 678926) for more details.

ORGANIST WANTED

Please can anyone in the village play the organ? We do not have anyone at this time to play our organ in the church. For more information, please phone June 01379 678926.

SECRETARIAL HELP

We are still looking for someone to help with our Church secretarial work. If anyone can spare a few hours, we have a meeting about every 3 months where brief minutes are taken, and a few items of correspondence need attending to. Please phone June 01379 678926, or email rev.julialall@gmail.com or 01379 678064 either of whom can give you some more information about what is needed.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

10 September – volunteers will be welcome to help tidy up the churchyard. Details will be on the village Facebook page later.

Christmas Tree Festival – dates and times will be in the next Village Newsletter.

BOOKS AND JIGSAWS

Books and Jigsaw Puzzles are always on sale in the porch at All Saints Church. The outer door is always unlocked (but is stiff to push open).

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Time 12.30 for 1pm

We trust that you have all kept well. For your own wellbeing it would be good if you could organise for yourself a Lateral Flow Test before the event if you can. Masks and hand sanitiser are always available at the Hall.

Wednesday July 27th, August 24th and September 28th

The meal is primarily for those over 65 in the Stoke Ash & Thwaite area who would like to meet up with others who may be living alone and would like to have a meal and chat

RSVP to Gordon or Janis on 01379 678450 Mobile 07745 365583

If you require transport please ask. We meet the 4th Wednesday in the month

Supported by Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC and Stoke Ash Baptist Church

**All are welcome at our
regular activities***


**Stoke Ash
Baptist Church**

Sunday 10.30am Morning Service

Tuesday 7.30pm Prayer, Share & Bible Focus

Please see advert for community lunch dates.

Regular activities in normal times: Friends & Neighbours, Community Breakfasts & Lunches, Home Groups, Christianity/Discipleship Explored Courses & Holiday Club.

Please join us - you will receive a warm welcome.

More details on our website at www.stokeashbaptistchurch.com

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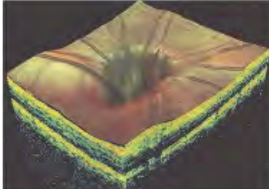
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Celebration of HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

June 2,3,4,&5, 2022

Before Christmas 2021 initial discussions were taking place as to how the Queen's Jubilee should be celebrated in our villages. After Easter, with the formal announcement of a 4 day national holiday, the Parish Council formed a planning team headed by Tony Pulham with Gordon Leggett, Val Lane & Geoff Tancred in support. An initial request of Shane and Anne of the White Horse pub to quote for the cost of an evening meal led, after some consultation, to an offer to organise a complete programme of events over the first two days. It was a most generous and public spirited suggestion, which included playing areas with bouncy castle for children, afternoon tea, a burger bar, live music and a beer festival bar set up in out buildings. We were delighted to accept this offer, especially as it included a drink, something from the BBQ, and the afternoon tea, all of which would be free to our villagers.



For the remaining two days, it was decided to hold a fete on the village green, with stalls in a marquee, a summer punch and cider bar, a BBQ, a grab and smash crockery stall and a shooting gallery with Putin & Boris targets on the Saturday, and a fancy dress and dog dress up competitions, and a raffle.



A children's street party was planned for the Sunday, with an entertainer, sweets, ice cream & drinks. This meant getting a drinks licence for the bar, and permission to close The Street alongside the Stoke Ash village hall and green.



A programme of events was produced which was delivered to each house in the villages and outlying areas, together with vouchers for each family for the White Horse goodies. The opportunity was taken to find out how many children would be likely to attend the street party, as well as checking for allergies and preferences which needed to be considered. As it turned out, it quickly became obvious that too few children would be coming to the street party, so a quick rethink led to an invite to everyone to join in a picnic party on the village green, in the Village Hall or the marquee. The entertainer had already been booked, and all the street party paraphernalia bought, with children's drinks, cakes, ice cream, sweets and other goodies which would still be available.

The 'long weekend ' turned out to be highly successful in all its phases.

The White Horse partying was enjoyed not only by the villagers but was also open to the public (at a cost). With copious sandwiches, cakes and goodies of the 'Afternoon Teas', the bouncy castle, the live music, outside TV available and the BBQ and Jubilee ales and excellent live band, the atmosphere was absolutely buzzing with happy enjoyment. The pub staff were friendly, efficient and helpful and a credit to their employers.



Our fete was extremely successful, and covered its costs, as well as those of the picnic on the following day. The clotted cream scones served up in the Hall were absolutely outstanding and much in demand, as were the variety of cakes , ice cream and drinks .Each of the stands did a roaring trade, perhaps partly because costs were relatively minimal. Music outside was supplied by 'Lolly' Turner, - an excellent and appropriate choice, at a restrained but adequate volume.



The table sales in the marquee went well, with raffle table doing a great job, and the church sales and Posh nearly new sales doing particularly well.

Activities in the field were much patronised, and the Dog dress up competition, judged by our Police Commissioner for Suffolk was great fun.



Opportunity was taken to give Lionel and Shiela Coe an inscribed platter thanking them for all the years of their hard work and dedication to our village life.

The arrival of a WWII american army truck and jeep created an atmospheric interest to the proceedings and a commemorative china mug was presented for each family in the villages (those who did not attend, mugs will be delivered to their homes in due time as more had to be reordered).

With the Village Street closed, and the Children's Street party converted to an all welcome picnic, the proceedings were brought to life by Eddie Portsmouth, AKA Ali Shazam who entertained for well over the time he was hired for. He did an excellent job, keeping both children and adults amused and fascinated by his patter, magic tricks, and balloon bending for the children. The Maisey family did a sterling job dispensing drinks, ice creams, cakes and jubilee noise makers.



By 4.30 pm, the party moved into the marquee where white bubbly wine was dispensed to all adults for a loyal toast to HM the Queen, followed by a loud rendering of the National Anthem and three cheers for Her Majesty.

The dismantling of the marquee and other tents, and general tidying up was to be completed over the next few days.

Without the assistance of many helpers, putting the marquee up, and later dismantling it would have been a very difficult task. Thank you to all who came and helped throughout the weekend, be it in manning stalls, taking part in competitions and activities, dispensing food and alcohol, laughing with the entertainer, and above all, supporting our village activities.

It was a good time, and will be long remembered.....



and then there was the clearing up and another celebration of teas and coffees with bacon butties.....

A Right Royal Affair



...and that sums it up!

Lionel & Sheila presentation

Sheila and Lionel Coe - at our Platinum Jubilee fete Sheila and Lionel, having just returned from holiday, were presented with an engraved salver as a mark of appreciation for their many years of selfless service to our village. Thankfully it was a complete surprise to them, having been kept secret since they both took a step back from being quite so active in and on behalf of Stoke Ash upon retiring from the Orchard Stores and Post Office.

During the last forty or so years they have at one time or another been heavily involved in every aspect of village life, from their home at the Orchard Stores and Post Office which has truly been a rock at the centre of the village.

It is being very much missed, and the general feeling seems to be that an era has ended. It seems very unlikely that we will see again two individuals so committed to the well being of the village and residents, and prepared to put in their time and effort with such good grace and cheerful friendliness.

The presentation was but a small token, but it represents the grateful thanks of all who have had cause to thank Sheila and Lionel over the years.

So, thank you Sheila and Lionel, we know that you will still be working on behalf of residents, but hope that you enjoy your slightly less busy lives, and have time to reflect with satisfaction on all that you have done for us.



Stoke Ash Gardening Club

At the end of June, Stoke Ash Gardening Club, as part of their summer programme, enjoyed an interesting evening in a very unusual garden in Wickham Skeith. The garden was beautifully laid out with plants, shrubs and trees but running through the garden was a miniature railway with working trains, some electric and some steam powered. Many of the plants were miniature sized to keep in scale with the track and the buildings. The figures of people were handmade with their own individual poses and positioned on the trains, in the buildings or as part of the scenery. The buildings were quite realistic, some of them handbuilt and some of them cleverly fashioned from children's toys. It was also fascinating to see a small collection of carnivorous plants. The rain tried to dampen our enjoyment of the evening but without success and the evening ended with a beautiful clear sky whilst we enjoyed teas and delicious home made cakes.

Our outing in July is to a garden in Walsham-le-Willows and we recommence our meetings in the village hall in September.

We meet on the 4th Monday of the month and if you are interested in joining us, you will be very welcome. Please contact Lionel Coe for further details.



Hi Vis jackets

are now available for dog walkers in Stoke Ash and Thwaite.
There is a limited number and this is being run as a pilot scheme in our villages to make people aware of the dangers of speed and to make our walkers more visible.

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Cllr Pulham 07850 385914 and Cllr Leggett 07745 365583



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
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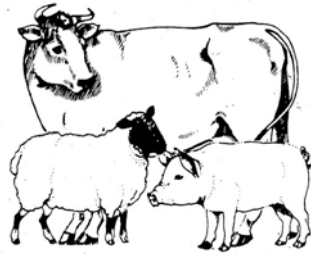
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Stoke Ash Women's Institute is 50 years old!

Stoke Ash Women's Institute is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in August and will be marking this important event with a Summer Tea Party on the village green.

Earlier this year, one of our members visited The Hold in Ipswich to view the first records of the formation of our WI and it makes interesting reading.

The first record on 20th April 1972 stated:

An exploratory meeting was held in the Old School, Stoke Ash, to consider forming a Women's Institute, and 19 ladies were present..... It was decided that the ladies would meet in May for further discussion.... and a [further] meeting on 14th June..... it would then be decided whether to form a W.I. named Stoke Ash...

The first official meeting was held on 9th August 1972, where it was decided that meetings would be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Old School, the hire for which was 50p.

The first officers elected were:

President – Mrs Ruth Shuttleworth

Secretary – Mrs J Adshead

Treasurer – Miss J Lummis

Vice President – Dr B Vaudrey

After 50 years it is interesting to see how our 'small but perfectly formed' WI has evolved and changed, but also remains the same. For instance we still meet at the same place, at the same time and on the same day! The cost of hall hire has risen of course but still provides an excellent venue and value for money. Our numbers have remained steady over the years and we have a current membership of 15 ladies.

The documents at The Hold detailed the minutes of many of the meetings held from those early days through to 2003. It was interesting to note the formality in the minutes with the use of surnames only and the ladies identified as Mrs or Miss. Gradually first names were introduced and by the end of the century only first names were used!

Several ladies who appeared in the records in the early days are still members today. One of the founding members was Barbara Vaudrey who was elected Vice President at the first meeting, served on the Committee from 1970 to 1984 and was President from 1971 to 1972. She remained a member until just a few years ago and died in December 2021.

To commemorate our Anniversary and the life of Barbara Vaudrey, we will be dedicating a tree on the village green as part of our celebrations on 14th August.

STOKE ASH WI

The May meeting is where we discuss and vote on the national Resolution. This years' resolution is titled "Women and girls with ASD and ADHD under-identified, under-diagnosed and under-supported".

Female sufferers of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

The WI is calling on the government to ring-fence funds to research the presentation of autism in females as it is known to be generally different to the presentation in males, and this is part of the reason it has gone unrecognised in girls and women for so long.

Our programme for meetings is published on the village website and on our dedicated WI page (<http://sefwi.org.uk/institutes/stoke-ash>). Please check it out and do get in touch, or just come along on the night.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. You'll get a warm welcome.

Stoke Ash W.I. is celebrating!

Stoke Ash WI will be 50 years old in August and to celebrate our Golden Anniversary

we are holding a Summer Tea Party on

Sunday 14th August on Stoke Ash Village Green 2 - 4pm

You are invited to join us for the afternoon to commemorate

this important occasion and enjoy home made cakes, tea & coffee and cold drinks.



Please put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you!

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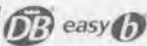
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Power of choice

"I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me.

He handed me a laminated card and said, 'I'm Wasu, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk, I'd like you to read my mission statement.'

Taken aback, I read the card. It said, 'Wasu's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest, and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.'

This blew me away. Especially when I noticed the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wasu said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.'

I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.'

Wasu smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, lassi, water, and orange juice.'

Almost stuttering, I said, 'I'll take a lassi since I've never had one before.'

Handing me my drink, Wasu said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have Good Housekeeping magazine, Reader's Digest, The Bible, and a Travel + Leisure magazine.'

As we were pulling away, Wasu handed me another laminated card, 'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.'

And as if that weren't enough, Wasu told me he had the heater on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for me.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

'Tell me, Wasu,' I was amazed and asked him, 'have you always served customers like this?'

Wasu smiled into the rear view mirror. 'No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard about power of choice one day.'

'Power of choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle. If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining! Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'

'That hit me right,' said Wasu. He continued and said, 'It is about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more.'

'I take it that has paid off for you,' I said.

'It sure has,' Wasu replied. 'My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year, I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on it.'

Wasu made a different choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles. I hope we all decide to soar like an eagle and not quack like a duck."

Thwaite Defibrillator

Thwaite now has a Defibrillator very generously donated & set up by Keith Manester. Sincere thanks on behalf of the local Community.

The Defibrillator is situated on the Right Hand Side RHS, of the garage entrance to Romany House, Wickham Road, Thwaite, almost opposite The Old School Room, it is well signposted, cabinet unlocked, & relevant services aware.

Anyone interested in training in CPR please contact Lynne Cockerton so that the Parish Council may organise this for later in the year.



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A few jokes to enjoy

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience was different each week so he did same tricks over and over. The problem was, the captain's parrot saw all the shows and began to understand how the magician did every trick. He started shouting in the middle of the show: 'Look, it's not the same hat. Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table. Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?' The magician was furious but, as it was the captain's parrot, he could do nothing. Then one day the ship sank and the magician found himself floating on a piece of wood with the parrot. They glared at each other but said nothing. Finally, after a week, the parrot said: 'OK, I give up. Where's the ship?'

A man goes to hospital feeling really unwell.

The Doctor performs some tests and says, "I am afraid you have a very rare and very contagious disease, we're transferring you to a room where you will be fed a diet of Pizza, Toast and Pancakes."

"Will that cure me..?" asks the man.

"No, not at all" says the Doctor, "But, it's the only food we can pass under the door" !

There was a blonde who was sitting next to a lawyer on an airplane. The lawyer was naturally bored, so he kept bugging the blonde to play a game of intelligence with him.

The blonde was reluctant, so the lawyer offered her 10 to 1 odds. He told her that every time she could not answer his question, she owed him \$5, but every time he could not answer hers, he'd give her \$50. The lawyer figured the blonde was so dumb, he could not lose, and the blonde thought for a few minutes and reluctantly accepted to play his game.

The lawyer fires his first question "What is the distance between the Earth and the nearest star?"

Without saying a word the blonde handed him \$5. The blonde then asked the lawyer "What goes up a hill with 3 legs and comes back down the hill with 4 legs?"

The lawyer's face looked extremely puzzled. He spent several hours, looking up everything he could on his laptop and even placing numerous air-to-ground phone calls trying to figure out the answer. Finally, the angry and frustrated lawyer handed the blonde \$50.00.

The blonde put the \$50 into her purse quickly without saying a word. The lawyer was outraged at this point and asked, "Well, what is answer?"

The blonde glanced at him with a smirk on her face and handed him a \$5 bill.

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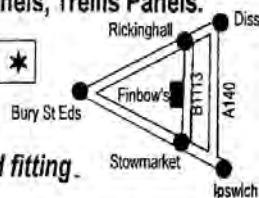
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